

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 IO-13 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-08 /113 W

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R 090952Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4105

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6262

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TS LY PLOS ENRG

SUBJECT: ENNACEUR RETURNS FROM MISSION TO LIBYA

WITH PROMISE OF IMPROVING BILATERAL

RELATIONS; FORMATION COMMISSION ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: TUNIS 6050

1. GOT SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MOHAMED ENNACEUR RETURNED TO TUNIS FROM HIS MISSION TO TRIPOLI AND, AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ON SEPTEMBER 4, TOLD PRESS THAT LARG HAD AGREED TO RELEASE THREE TUNISIAN SOLDIERS CAPTURED AT THE TUNISIAN-LIBYAN BORDER IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS THESE MEN ARE NOW BACK IN TUNIS. ENNACEUR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT A JOINT TUNISIAN-LIBYAN COMMISSION WILL MEET ON SEPTEMBER 16 IN TRIPOLI TO DRAFT THE TEXT FOR THE ARBITRATION REQUEST THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED PRVIOUSLY TO SUBMIT TO THE ICJ ON DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY. ENNACEUR ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO EXAMINE WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE JOINT EXPLOITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF PENDING THE ICJ DECISION. FINALLY, ENNACEUR SAID THAT EFFORTS CONTINUE TO RESOLVE ALL PROBLEMS

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PENDING EBETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WHILE IN TRIPOLI,

ENNACEUR MET WITH RCC CHAIRMAN COL. QADHAFI.

2. NO PUBLIC MENTION WAS MADE BY GOT OF THE LIBYAN SOLDIERS HELD BY TUNISIA SINCE APRIL NOR OF TUNISIAN BUSINESSMAN RAOUF M'HENNI WHO HAS BEEN "MISSING " IN LIBYA SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR. ENNACUER'S STATEMENT THAT EFFORTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS PRESUMABLY INCLUDES FURTHER EXCHANGES OF PERSONS BEING DETAINED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

3. AMONG THE TUNISIAN OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING ENNACUER TO TRIPOL WAS THE GOT'S HIGH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LARG MOHMOUD CHARCHOUR. HE HAS NOW APPARENTLY RETURNED PERMANENTLY TO HIS POST. CHARCHOUR HAD TAKEN A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE GOT'S ANTI-QADHAFI PRESS CAMPAIGN IN MARCH AND APRIL AND FEW LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO TRIPOLI AND SERVE ANY USEFUL ROLE.
MULCAHY

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